(3) One hundred and twenty-five free licences to fish in the Corangi Bay which is replete with window-pane oyster beds containing pearls of inferior quality have been granted to fishermen.

(4) There are eight fishermen co-operative societies in Kakinada taluk with one multipurpose co-operative society functioning at Kakinada. Yarn depots have been opened at Kakinada and yarn and sail cloth are being distributed to fishermen at subsidized rates.

" The Society at Kakinada has also been granted the lease for collection of shells in Corangi Bay and also permitted to cut timber in the forests at Corangi Mada and Kundiguppa and use the bark of trees for dyeing nets.

" Every possible effort for the amelioration and uplift of the fishermen in Kakinada taluk is being taken."

Harijan Rural Welfare Officers.

* 700 *Q.*—SRI S. VEMIAH : Will the Hon. the Minister for Rural Welfare be pleased to state the number of Harijan Rural Welfare Officers in the State?

THE HON. SRI S. B. P. PATTABHI RAMA RAO :—" One."

Power-supply to certain villages in Kurumbranad taluk.

* 701 *Q.*—SRI P. KUNHIRAMA KIDAV : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received any memorandum from the public that the Pykara Electricity should be supplied to the following industrial and agricultural centres in Kurumbranad taluk, viz., Quilandy, Balussery, Naduvanur, Ferambra, Meppayyur and Payyoli;

(*b*) how many requests the Government have got from the Balussery Panchayat Board that Pykara Electricity should be extended to the Board's area;

(*c*) whether the Government have investigated about generating electricity from a waterfall at ' Nurumutty ' also known as ' Urakkuzhi ' in Malabar at Kayanna amsam in Kurumbranad taluk; and

(*d*) what is the result of the investigation?

THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—" (*a*) Representations were received from the Kurumbranad Taluk Congress Committee for extension of supply of electricity for industrial and other purposes in the taluk.

" (*b*) It cannot be stated definitely how many requests were made by the Balussery Panchayat Board. The panchayat board made representations in June 1952 for extension of supply of electricity to its area.

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"(c) & (d) The attention of the Member is invited to the answer given on 30th March 1953 to starred question No. 250-I by Sri M. Narayana Kurup, M.L.A."

Grant for the Tuberculosis Sanatorium at Periyaram, North Malabar.

* 702 *Q.*—SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP: Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(a) the amount of grant sanctioned by the Government for construction of a Tuberculosis Sanatorium at Periyaram, Malabar;

(b) the year in which the grant was sanctioned; and

(c) the amount paid up to 1952 and 1953 and the sum allotted in 1953–54?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—"(a) Rs. 2,17,900.

"(b) 1952.

"(c) No amount has so far been actually paid to the authorities of the Sanatorium. A sum of Rs. 1 lakh has been provided in the Budget Estimate for 1953–54."

Fair-price shops in Kakinada.

* 703 *Q.*—SRI C. V. K. RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) why in spite of the rise in the price of foodgrains in Kakinada and Kakinada taluk, fair-price depots are not opened; and

(b) whether the Government will take steps to open fair-price depots soon?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM:—"The Collector of East Godavari has been permitted to open fair-price shops in the upland taluks and in the rural areas of deltaic taluks in the district."

Introduction of the Minimum Wages Act in the plantations.

* 704 *Q.*—SRI K. P. GOPALAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Madras Government did not enforce the Central Rules when it introduced the Minimum Wages Act in the plantations in this State and if so, the reasons?

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO:—"The Minimum Wages (Central) Rules were issued by the Government of India. Those rules are applicable only to scheduled employments in respect of which the Government of India fixed minimum wages under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948. The Government of Madras have also fixed minimum wages in respect of the employments specified in Part I of the Schedule to the Minimum Wages Act, and employment